

Remarks

Claims 12-21 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, claims 12-20 have been amended, claim 21 has been canceled, and new claims 22-25 have been added. The undersigned avers that no new matter is introduced by this amendment. Entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 12-20 and 22-25 are currently pending in the subject application. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

The amendments to the claims have been made in an effort to lend greater clarity to the claimed subject matter and to expedite prosecution. These amendments should not be taken to indicate the applicants' agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejections of record. Favorable consideration of the claims now presented, in view of the remarks and amendments set forth herein, is earnestly solicited.

The applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that the substitute drawings received by the U.S. Patent Office on July 16, 2004 were acceptable.

The Office Action at page 2 indicates that an IDS has not been filed in the subject application. An IDS accompanies this Amendment.

Claims 12-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schiebel *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,396,072). The applicant respectfully traverses this grounds for rejection.

The Schiebel *et al.* reference does not teach a semiconductor sensor comprising a semiconductor layer having a top surface; a plurality of pixel surface coatings positioned above the top surface of the semiconductor layer to form a corresponding plurality of pixels, wherein each pixel surface coating is separated from each adjacent pixel surface coating, wherein the plurality of pixel surface coatings are conductive, wherein electrons incident one of the plurality of pixel surface coatings are absorbed by the one of the plurality of pixel surface coatings resulting in a charge associated with the pixel corresponding to the one of the plurality of pixel surface coatings such that the charge produces a readable voltage associated with the pixel corresponding to the one of the plurality of pixel surface coatings; and a conductive layer positioned above the top surface of the semiconductor layer and positioned so that electrons passing between adjacent pixel surface coatings are incident on the conductive layer and prevented from penetrating into the semiconductor layer, wherein the conductive layer is insulated from the plurality of pixel surface coatings. Rather, the

Schiebel *et al.* reference teaches a device providing an extension to prior art collecting electrode 11, where there is a gap between adjacent collecting electrodes 11 (see Figure 4 and column 4, lines 50-61). Specifically, at column 4, lines 50-61, the Schiebel *et al.* reference teaches "which electrodes cover the surface area available to each pixel as much as possible and electrically contact, via the contact holes, the electrodes situated therebelow ... [t]he distance between the facing sides of neighboring collecting electrodes may then be between 5 and 15  $\mu$ m, ...", when describing electrodes 14. Accordingly, electrodes 14 are not positioned so that electrons passing between adjacent electrodes 11 are incident on the electrodes 14. In contrast, with respect to the subject invention as claimed in claim 22, 12-20, and 23-25, the conductive layer is positioned so that electrons passing between adjacent pixel surface coatings are incident on the conductive layer. In addition, the conductive layer is insulated from the pixel surface coatings in the subject invention of claim 22. Again, in contrast, electrode 14 and electrode 11 of the Schiebel *et al.* reference are not insulated from each other, but, rather, electrode 14 is in electrical contact with electrode 11 and is actually an extension of electrode 11.

Therefore, the Schiebel *et al.* reference does not teach each and every limitation of the subject invention as claimed and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is not proper. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

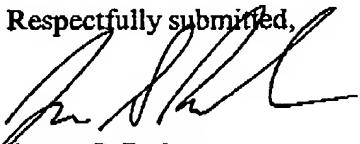
Claims 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Scheibel *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,396,072) in view of Bierig *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 3,902,095). The applicants respectfully traverse this grounds for rejection. The limitations of the Schiebel *et al.* reference have been discussed above with respect to the rejection of claims 12-21. The Bierig *et al.* reference does not cure such defects. Therefore, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been presented. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The applicant believes the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

Docket No. PAT-100T  
Serial No. 10/018,098

The applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,  


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Attachments: Request for Continued Examination  
Information Disclosure Statement with cited references